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SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: U.S.-JAPAN-TAIWAN STRATEGIC  
COOPERATION, AND BIRD FLU

1. SUMMARY: Taiwan dailies on November 1 focused on President Chen Shui-bian's comments during a National Security Council meeting on October 31 that urged the international community to monitor the transparency of bird flu control in China. Taiwan dailies also focused on the battle between the Government Information Office and a local cable station, TVBS, over whether or not the station complies with local laws governing foreign ownership of media outlets.

2. Editorials and Commentaries: On U.S.-Japan-Taiwan Strategic Cooperation, Taiwan Think Tank's Foreign Policy Studies Director Lai I-chung wrote in the pro-independence "Taiwan Daily" that the "Taiwan issue" has become more critical than ever in U.S.-Japan-Taiwan relations, and he urged closer cooperation between the three sides. Regarding the bird flu issue, in the limited circulation, pro-independence, English language "Taipei Times", Associate Professor Chen Kow-tong of National Cheng Kung University's Department of Public Health suggested appropriate ways to control a possible bird flu outbreak. END SUMMARY

#### 1. U.S.-Japan-Taiwan Strategic Cooperation

"Critical Agenda for U.S.-Japan-Taiwan Strategic Cooperation - Part II"

Lai I-chung, Taiwan Think Tank's Director for Foreign Policy Studies, commented in the pro-independence "Taiwan Daily" [circulation: 100,000] (11/01):

". The 'U.S.-Japan-Taiwan Strategic Dialogue' concluded that the most critical variable influencing current U.S.-Japan-Taiwan relations is Taiwan. Taiwan's economy will be marginalized, and the delay in Taiwan's military modernization has a negative influence on the security balance across the Taiwan Strait. Moreover, the current situation of Taiwan politics makes it impossible to predict Taiwan's future democratic development. The situation is therefore quite serious. Hence, there is greater need and urgency for U.S.-Japan-Taiwan cooperation. This is what constitutes the 'Taiwan issue.' The critical agenda for U.S.-Japan-Taiwan cooperation in the next two years will not only be the 'cross-Strait issue,' but also the 'Taiwan issue.' It is therefore necessary to hold further discussions in order to formulate one or more policies that could be handled by all sides."

#### 2. Bird Flu

"Avian Flu Needs to be Stopped in its Tracks"

Chen Kow-tong, National Cheng Kung University's Department of Public Health Associate Professor wrote in the pro-independence, English language Taipei Times [circulation: 30,000] (11/01):

". An effective surveillance system is needed to discover the origins of an outbreak and any new cases of bird flu. The first reaction is to take people's temperature on a daily basis. As of yet, there have been no proven cases of human-to-human bird flu transmission and only around 120 confirmed cases of bird flu being transmitted to humans globally. Therefore, finding cases of actual bird flu given the amount of people who have a fever is like finding a needle in a haystack. Disease prevention personnel may well overlook an actual case given the sheer amount of data to review. To ensure an effective surveillance system, there should be a stricter definition of which symptoms characterize the onset of bird flu. Once a case of bird flu is confirmed in Taiwan, the government should amend its definition to be more inclusive. Only by doing so can the government get the situation under control and prevent panic from setting in.

"A disease prevention program should be specific, flexible and able to change depending on how the disease behaves. The recent cases of bird flu have all been reported among people who have had frequent contact with fowl. Therefore, the government should strengthen its efforts in this regard.

"A local outbreak will increase demands on human and material resources. Therefore, the government has to come to grips with the pandemic at an early stage and prevent the

disease from spreading within the nation.

"We should also make good use of the anti-flu drug Tamiflu, since it is capable not only of curing the disease but also of preventing the spread of the bird flu virus. However, we should not regard it as a wonder drug and distribute it to everyone in Taiwan. ."

PAAL